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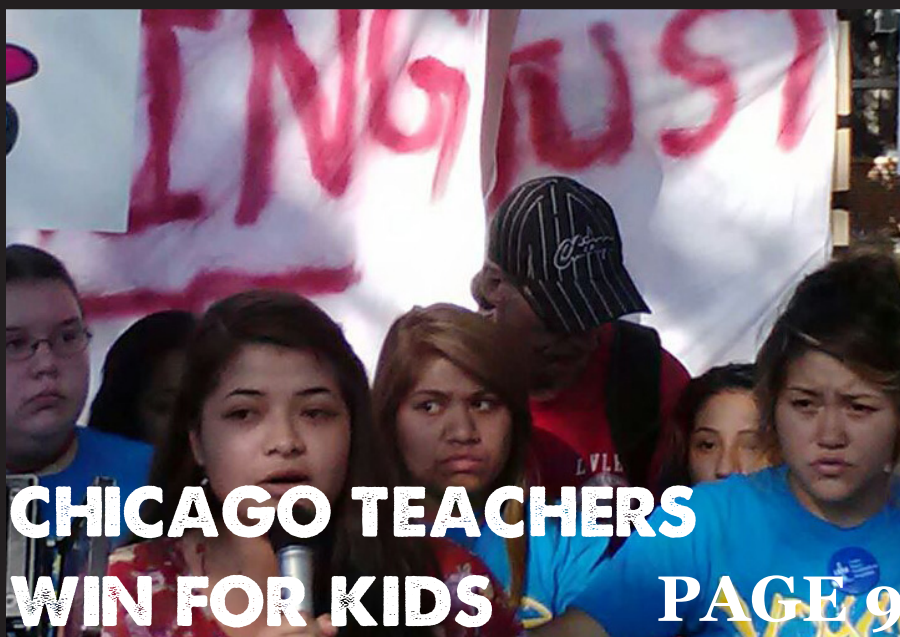
STREETVIBES

ADVOCATING JUSTICE • BUILDING COMMUNITY

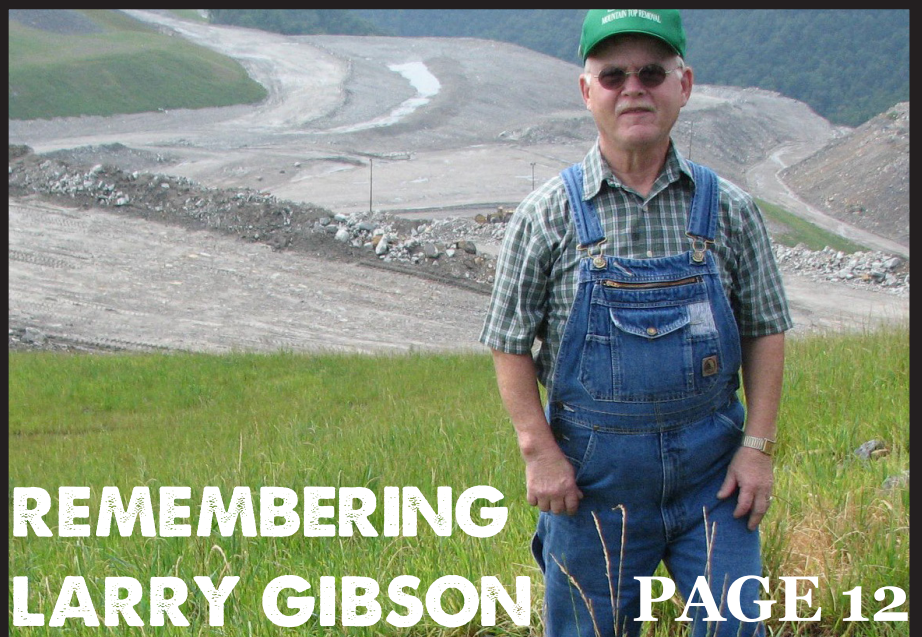
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Improperly Charged From the Director

JOSH SPRING
Executive Director

You're driving down the interstate- the same route you've taken home from work for a decade. You're going your normal 65 miles per hour. A State Trooper pulls behind you and turns on their lights. Confused, you pull over. You remember that you recently replaced your left brake light, so it must not be that.

The Trooper walks up to the door and asks for your license and registration, you remember finances are tight for your family now and you really can't afford a ticket. You hand over the demanded papers as you ask why you were pulled over- knowing you were not over the 65 miles per hour speed limit. The State Trooper says, "You were speeding." You ask how that could be. The Trooper says, "You were going 65 in a 50."

You explain that you know the speed limit is 65 and you have been traveling this same route for ten years. The Trooper says, "There's a sign half a mile back that says 50." You express being surprised. You had not noticed the sign. A few weeks later when you have scraped up enough money, you pay the fine. Afterward you do some research and you find out that in fact the State Trooper, at the order of her superior painted and hung the sign dictating 50 mph just the day before.

Furthermore you find out that this so called new speed limit law was never discussed by any legislative body, the general public never had the opportunity to voice opinions and no legislative body ever adopted the new rule. Additionally the government was never notified of the actions of the State Trooper's office. Yet, you were charged with an offense and punished with a fine. How do you feel? Are you angry? Are you frustrated? Do you lose

trust in the legislative process? Do you feel apprehensive about driving on area roads for fear of breaking rules you did not know exist and had no say in?

This situation sounds either absurd or like a conspiracy we would see on a program like 20/20. But would you believe something very similar happened in Washington Park and in fact had the potential to happen throughout this city. Meet Park Rule 28. Park Rule 28 granted the Cincinnati Park Board the ability to have an employee erect a sign of any sort in any park at any time with any "rule" or "rules" on it. These "rules" would then be enforced by the Cincinnati Police Department as if they were laws. If you broke one of these "rules" you could receive a criminal charge, you could be fined, you could even be arrested. Park Rule 28 allowed for these "rules" to be posted without having been passed through any proper legislative process in which the Public had an opportunity to speak.

We saw the consequences of this Park Rule 28 in Washington Park. After it re-opened, there was a laundry list of new rules, ones that were not consistent with the normal Park Board Rules. They were rules that specifically targeted people with low incomes and/or people experiencing homelessness. These rules were created via last minute emails between a couple of Park Board employees, one Police Department employee and a couple of 3CDC employees. In fact 3CDC, the private organization, created the final draft of the "rules" with input from the other two groups. The rules were not passed by the Park Board in an open public meeting; the new rules were not given to City Council or the City's Law Department. Yet they were hung and enforced like laws.

We connected three very concerned and affected people we know and work with, Jerry Davis of the Homeless Congress and Ann Brown

and Andrew Fitzpatrick of the People's Platform for Equality and Justice with Civil Rights attorney Jennifer Kinsley. Jennifer, an expert in such issues, assisted the three people in filing suit against the Park Board, specifically calling out the unconstitutional nature of Park Rule 28. On September 20th the Park Board voted to strike down Park Rule 28.

The Park Board realized it did not have a winning case and could not stand up to the fight. They struck down the rule. This returned Washington Park specifically to normal Park Board rules. More importantly, this means that, now in the City of Cincinnati, rules for parks must be passed through the Park Board in open public meetings, in which the Public has the opportunity to speak. Back door, biased rules can no longer be created simply by posting a sign.

How absurd is it that until September 20th- it was actually the case that you could get a criminal charge for breaking a rule that was never established in any democratic fashion? Until the 20th you could have been charged with a criminal offense for breaking a rule a few people, over last minute emails, decided to paint on a sign and hang in a park.

Some folks have looked at all this and said, "Oh Washington Park looks great, why do you all keep complaining?" First of all, we cannot disregard the way in which the People in Over-the-Rhine were disregarded- the way in which amenities People needed and used were taken away despite outcry. Second we can't disregard all the negative and stereotyping arguments against people with low-incomes or people experiencing homelessness that were made to convince others to pay for the park to be re- done. Third, we



Photo: sodancapassion.blogspot.com

cannot disregard that no significant effort was put in on the part of 3CDC to ensure that qualified people living near the Park had a positive opportunity to get work in the park. Fourth, we cannot disregard that nearly \$50 million dollars was spent on 2 square blocks, as we have people sleeping under bridges.

Specifically to Park Rule 28. The ground-level consequence of Park Rule 28 is that it allowed for the creation of rules meant to target certain people because they are experiencing homelessness- rules that made it so food and clothing could not be distributed in the park for example. We can never be okay with a rule that is meant to negatively target certain people because they are experiencing homelessness. Even more importantly however, Park Rule 28 circumvented democracy and more to the point, circumvented the People. Park Rule 28 handed power to a few people that had enough money to have access to power. This is wrong.

The resulting terrible rules in Washington Park were the consequences. We know that if we don't stop it here, it will only get worse and we will see more discriminatory "rules." Thanks to the three Plaintiffs and Ms. Kinsley, our city is more democratic today than before September 20th.

-Josh Spring, LSU, Executive Director

Streetvibes is an activist newspaper, advocating justice and building community. Streetvibes reports on economic issues, civil rights, the environment, the peace movement, spirituality and the struggle against homelessness and poverty. Distributed by people who are or once were homeless, in exchange for a \$1.50 donation, Streetvibes is published twice a month by the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless (GCCCH), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works to eradicate homelessness in Cincinnati.

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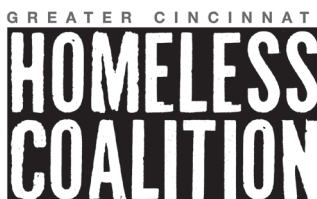
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Tavis Smiley and Cornell West's Poverty Tour 2.0



Photo: briggsandtort.com



JASON HAAP
Contributing Writer

poverty into the political landscape - one that too frequently focuses on the mythical "Middle Class," which, according to Smiley and West, has largely disappeared.

"We expect that the forthcoming census data will reveal that poverty in America is not an abstraction," said West in a press release. "Too many Americans are living hand to mouth. Basic needs such as living-wage jobs, food, clothing, medicine, and shelter cannot be ignored by the major parties during the upcoming political conventions, or by their respective nominees on the campaign trail."

Their tour hopes to draw attention to the millions upon millions of Americans experiencing poverty - those who have lost their "Middle Class" status, and who therefore are being ignored by both the Democrats and the Republicans. Tavis and Smiley predict that the new census report will

From September 12-15, Tavis Smiley and Cornell West mounted their "Poverty Tour 2.0," focusing on stops in key battleground states of the presidential election, including Ohio. Their purpose is simple: to inject a discussion of

show that half of all Americans are living in or near poverty.

According to the website for "Cincinnati Works," census data indicates that 316,000 adults and 167,000 children are living in poverty in the Cincinnati Tri-state area. Cincinnati actually ranks as one of the worst cities in the country for childhood poverty. Interestingly, according to the web page for Cincinnati USA, our region "ranks in the nation's Top 10 markets for number of Fortune 500 headquarters per million residents, higher than New York, Boston, Chicago, or Los Angeles."

Some of these local companies have a strange way of interacting with the poor. Western and Southern has been trying to stop the Anna Louise Inn from helping abused women in a location where they want to build condos, and 3CDC has worked, in conjunction with the city, to put pressure on the Drop Inn Center to move from their current location - right in the middle of prime real estate for wealthy development. It's still unclear if the Drop Inn Center will maintain their current location, or whether they will be tempted to upgraded facilities in a downgraded locale. Either way, the poverty wars are alive and well in Cincinnati, so efforts like those of Smiley and West are well-timed.

Coincidentally, it appears an unnamed group of activists have been distributing flyers around town on this same theme (at least, if the very non-scientific measure of what appears on my doorstep means anything). The flyer investigates details about U.S. income, and ends with this proclamation - while making no direct calls for action:

Standin' on the Corner Watching all the Girls Suits Go By

JIM LUKEN
Contributing Writer

life. As such, I have been to hundreds of demonstrations, marched for more than a hundred miles, spoken at rallies, and performed in dozens of "street theater" events. I was arrested once in the late 80s at an anti-war sit down at our local Federal Building (all of us were released shortly after our arrests).

Over the past six weeks, several of us age-challenged (read: old) activists have engaged in another, different, form of "active" protest. In an attempt to give it a name, we call what we have been doing "vigiling." Each stands by himself on a street corner in front of, or near, Western & Southern

Financial Group Headquarters. We are protesting what this corporate goliath is doing to Anna Louise Inn (the Inn), a 103-year-old haven for poor women located on the southeast edge of Lytle Park. The Inn is "little David" in this metaphor. We don't carry slingshots. We carry signs.

There have been as many as four of us old guys in any given morning, or late afternoon, vigil. The important thing is that we do not stand together the way people do at demonstrations. We each stand at a different place around the W & S quadrant of buildings. This is a vigil.

We stand alone, each holding his sign in the face of oncoming traffic or oncoming pedestrians, many of whom are W&S employees. Most of these people do not like what we are doing. Some confront us angrily. Others whisper furtively that they

are on our side. "Thanks for doing this," they often say.

I have "vigiled" several other times in my life. In my religious days, I stood watch for an hour each week in the middle of the night near a bonfire in the back of St. Bernard's Church in Winton Place. At the time, our church community was praying, 24-hours daily, for an end to the US-sponsored "Contra" terrorist war in Nicaragua. I no longer pray in any formal way, but I clearly understand vigiling to be part of a long-standing, very special kind of prayer.

Jesus kept a vigil in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before he was tortured and murdered by the state. In my

mind, Dorsey Steb- {Continued on page 4}

SAVE THE DAY

Every Friday at Noon

People's Platform for Equality & Justice
Peaslee Neighborhood Center

Monday, October 8th 5PM

Occupy Western & Southern, Support Anna Louise Inn
400 Broadway

Saturday, October 12th 1-4PM

YWCA's What Women Want 2012
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Friday, October 12th 1-4PM

Drop Inn Center's Mental Health Forum
Health Foundation

Thursday, October 18th Noon

Homeless Coalition's Annual Meeting
Church of the Redeemer

Thursday, October 18th 5:30-7:30

Over the Rhine Community Housing's
Celebrating Our Beloved Community
Music Hall

Saturday, October 20th 1-3PM

Homeless Awareness March
Location TBA

Saturday, October 26th 6-9 p.m.

Day by Day Calendar Launch & Exhibition
Emery Theatre, 1112 Walnut Street

Friday November 2nd 7 p.m.

Faces without Places "Yellow Bus Ball"
The Syndicate 18 East 5th Street
Newport Kentucky 41072
513-549-3155 or www.faceswithoutplaces.org

TBA December

Homeless Coalition Annual Dinner

If your organization is having an event, demonstration, etc. and you would like it included on the Streetvibes calendar, please email with the details: streetvibes@cincihomeless.org

Natalie Portman campaigns for Obama at Union Terminal

JUSTIN JEFFRE
Streetvibes Editor

On September 19th Academy Award winning actress Natalie Portman spoke to a packed house at the “Ohio Women Vote 2012 Summit” at the Cincinnati Museum Center in Union Terminal. Ohio’s former First Lady Frances Strickland also spoke as well as State Rep. Alicia Reece.

Portman told the crowd of about 300, “This really is a crucial moment in our history and you in Ohio, especially women in Ohio, will decide this election. It could come down to a few votes so you know that every woman you talk to, every person you help register, each one of you in this room will have an enormous impact.” And, “I think we are really lucky to have a very clear decision in this election; there are very clear differences between President Obama and Mitt Romney.”

Before she went on to contrast the differences she told a personal story about her connections to the Queen city. Her mother went to high school at Walnut Hills and her grandmother lives in Hyde Park. She said her grandfather came to Cincinnati after WWII. “He couldn’t afford to go to college. He had to start working right away. He started working as a door to door salesman and he built up his business into Champion Windows which then became a big business,” said Portman. “And because of that I see President Obama’s support of small businesses as so crucial to our economy. He’s cut taxes for small businesses 82 times since he’s been in office.”

Portman described why she isn’t voting for the Romney-Ryan ticket. “The Romney-Ryan plan will raise taxes on the middle class an average of \$2,000 per family. And those taxes don’t go to investing in education which will grow our economy, but will go to cutting taxes on the wealthiest people.” Portman said Obama’s plan only raises taxes on the wealthiest and the middle class gets tax breaks. “97% of voters will get tax breaks under Obama’s plan, but the money that they raise from the wealthiest will go to education”, she said. Portman also told the crowd that the President has reformed student loan repayments, doubled Pell Grants and made scholarships more available.

She told the adoring audience that, “We were on the brink of another great depression when he came into office. He was handed a miserable situation and he has steadily improved it. He’s also invested in stem and science technology, engineering and math. Our young people are being trained for the types of jobs that are going to be available in our new economy.”

She said Romney wants to expand the economy with “trickle-down economics” and we have seen “an assault on women” in the past few months. “We have seen a very accomplished young woman who testified before Congress about using birth control being called a slut. We saw a representative of Congress that sits on the Science Committee saying in the national media that a woman couldn’t get pregnant through rape,” she said.

Portman said Romney wants to



Portman speaks at the “Ohio Women Vote 2012 Summit” at the Cincinnati Museum Center in Union Terminal. *Photo: Justin Jeffre*

take us back in a time machine. “In fact Ryan co-sponsored a bill with Akin, that Congressman who made the comment about rape; they sponsored a bill using the term forcible rape for the first time, to distinguish between different kinds of rape - ‘because we all know some rapes are not forcible’ - which absolutely makes no sense.” She said she thinks women need to stand up for themselves because their mothers and grandmothers made giant strides to win women the rights they have gained and they can’t afford to go back now.

She said Obama’s created a healthcare program where women aren’t charged more than men for the

same services. “He’s created the Equal Pay Act so that women get paid the same pay for the same jobs that they do as men, he’s protected a woman’s right to choose and also has created a health care plan under which all of these preventative treatments like mammograms are covered for women and will save lives. And that I think women deserve,” said Portman.

She said her Grandma is a life-long Republican, but that she is cautiously optimistic that she will vote for Obama because they’ve been having a lot of conversations lately. She said they caught up the night before at Boca, their favorite restaurant in town.

Standin’

{Continued from page 3}

bins, an 80 year-old Lutheran Minister is by far the most Jesus-like of us four vigilers (but he won’t like my saying so). I recently had a long break when I went out of town on vacation. Dorsey has been faithfully standing watch for an hour and a half, most weekday mornings and evenings, for many weeks.

Standing for an hour and a half on pavement is no mean thing for a youngster of 68 like me. Dorsey lives in Forest Park. Every day, and sometimes twice a day, he drives and parks near a bus stop, takes the bus downtown for 45 minutes or longer, walks five blocks each way to W&S, and stands vigil, in his black suit and Roman collar. He laughs that passers-by sometimes say “Hi, Father” to him. For many years, Dorsey has been one of my activist heroes. He never gives up.

The other guys are Mike Shyrock, of Mt. Auburn Presbyterian, and an 83 year- old doctor, who doesn’t want his name used. They come to 5th and Broadway most afternoons and hold their signs in front of the rush hour traffic heading North or East, both one-way streets.

Dorsey and I come for the afternoon vigil as well, but we prefer the mornings. We arrive at W & S at around 7:30 a.m.; we each stand near one of the main entrances on 4th Street. Most of the pedestrians are company employees, walking up from their big garage on Third Street. Our

vigil gives us a wonderful opportunity to study human nature.

We are not confrontational in any way, although my signs sometimes are. I spend a great deal of time (and money) making my 24” x 30” signs, in bold black and colorful letters. I want them to have impact and get into the “head space” of those who read them. “No Room in the Inn for Corporate Greed,” or “Western-Southern: Abusing Poor Women Since 2010” are some examples.

Yesterday afternoon, I had a sign that said: “HONK if you [big red heart] the Anna Louise Inn.” It was raining, at times, hard. It took 45 minutes to get 52 honks. In that time, probably 3000 cars had passed. One guy walked by me. “Honk-honk,” he said. I counted that in my 52.

Recently, I softened up and made a sign that read: “We [red heart] Western-Southern Employees. Your Boss—Not So Much.” That sign drew quite a few smiles, to which I responded, “Thank you,” or “It’s true.”

And it is true. We understand that the attack on the Anna Louise Inn is being waged by the “Corporate Person” not any one employee or group of them. Nonetheless, the vast number, maybe as many as 75%(?), of employees who walk by refuse to even glance at us. Many scowl as they turn their heads. We scan each one of their faces for a sign of warmth, of humanity. If they make even a moment’s eye contact, we greet them with a smile and a “good morning.” Then, most respond with a “good morning” of their own. I often thank the ones who offer a smile.



Dorsey Stubbins protests in front of Western Southern Corporate office in Downtown Cincinnati daily. *Photo: Justin Jeffre*

Where does this anger come from? I find myself wondering. Do they think we are going to shut down the company and they will lose their jobs? Impossible. My sense is that it comes from some highly internalized fear-factor. I believe that many, if not most Americans, have swallowed “fear” as they would a prescription drug. They see anyone who would stand on a corner with a sign in the early morning hours as crazy. “Why is this lunatic trying to make me think about anything but my security and well-being?”

We “vigilers” are doing something that few of them can even imagine doing themselves. They know we are in opposition to an institution that

they need in order to remain safely middle-class.

As traffic dies down, and most of the employees are tucked inside their corporate womb-tomb, we are given a bit of time for other thoughts and notions. One that keeps coming back to me is that being “out there,” making a kind of fool of myself, is the very best thing I could be doing with my time on these early fall mornings and afternoons. Were I religious, I might say that this vigiling thing is almost holy, almost a prayer.

You, Dear Reader, might consider joining us of a morning or afternoon. Make a sign. Come on down. We’ll find a not-so-quiet street corner for you.

4-Year Councilors Could Be More Focused, or Could Lose Touch

LAURENCE BAIBAK
Contributing Writer

The ballot in November will include a proposal to extend Cincinnati's city council terms from two to four years. Critics say it will reduce accountability to the public, but supporters of the extended terms are hopeful councilors will pay more attention to doing their jobs than to keeping them if they're not up for election every other year.

Be it a race for local office or a national election, money is essential to campaigning. In the age of super PACs, it's become a common complaint that politicians pay more attention to constituents with more money. And according to Gene Beaupre, Xavier University's director of government relations, the less time our councilors spend fundraising, the more time they can spend attending to the needs of their low-income and homeless constituents, and to people less involved in the political process in general.

"Politicians don't campaign on something that's going to happen in five or ten years," he said. "They campaign on 'making your streets safer today.'" Given a four-year term, councilors would be allowed enough

time and security between campaigns to dive into more complicated topics, like poverty, infrastructure, and civil rights.

Beaupre mentioned the argument that elections are effectively "report cards" on performance and that fewer elections could reduce accountability to the voters. But, he countered, that matters more in head-to-head races than in a city-wide 9X race like the one that produces Cincinnati's city council. Such an election doesn't seem sincere as a grading system, he said, because "traditionally, the incumbents and the people with name recognition are the ones that get elected or reelected." Last year was an exception, he added, likely owed to the significant anti-SB5 turnout.

Former County Commissioner and City Councilman David Pepper, however, remains concerned about accountability. According to Pepper, councilors tend to fall out of touch with citizens between elections. Speaking from his own experience, "it's too easy," he says, "for the politicians' priorities to become their own projects, or the priorities of those with easy access to City Hall—as opposed to everyday voters' needs." He also points to "petty bickering and shifting alliances" among the councilors



Council Chambers. Photo: Justin Jeffre.

as a distraction that may only worsen if terms are extended. Frequent elections are the surest way to keep politicians in touch with the voices of their constituents, he says. "I never felt more 'in tune' than in the heart of a campaign—which is why I started knocking on doors even in the non-campaign year."

Pepper, a Democrat, is joined by the Hamilton County Republican Party in opposing four-year city council terms. The GOP is in favor of "a structural change in city govern-

ment that is comprehensive and that would include districts and a more executive/accountable mayor," but is "firmly opposed" to the term extension, calling it a "power-grab" and a reduction in accountability. Meanwhile, the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, supports the extension, claiming it would "enable greater stability for decision making on City Council and give Council members more time to focus on longer term issues."

League of Women Voters: Vote Yes on Issue 2

JUSTIN JEFFRE
Streetvibes Editor

The Community Issues Forum kicked off its 32nd season on Thursday, September 6th.

The Forum featured a presentation by Ann Henkener from the League of Women Voters on Issue 2, the proposed Constitutional Amendment to change the way federal and state election districts are drawn in Ohio.

Currently, state elected officials and the State Legislature redraw the federal and state election districts every ten years once new Census data is official. Following these guidelines means that state representatives of the party then in power draw the district lines in ways that favor the election of candidates from their party. It essentially allows politicians to pick their voters rather than voters having competitive elections that give them real choices.

In 2011, the Republican Party's blatant gerrymandering prompted the League of Women Voters, Common Cause and other reform groups to draft the proposed amendment that would eliminate this highly partisan approach. Issue 2 would institute an open process guided by a non-partisan commission comprised of four Republicans, four Democrats, and four independents appointed by Ohio's Appeals Court Judges. In open meetings that permit citizens to submit their ideas and plans, the Commission would adopt new districts based on criteria such as compactness, potential political competitiveness, and respect for existing communities.

Gerrymandering is when the process of selecting electoral districts is used to establish a political advantage for a particular party or group by manipulating geographic boundaries to

create partisan or incumbent-protected districts. The term was first used in Boston back in 1886 to describe how Governor Elbridge Gerry had signed a bill to redistrict Massachusetts to benefit his Democratic-Republican Party. One of the districts was carved into a shape that looked like a salamander. The term is a mashing of the governors name and the word salamander which was originally written Gerry-mander.

The non-partisan League of Women Voters has a long tradition of being a resource where voters can go to get unbiased information about candidates and issues. They even ran our Presidential debates until the Democrats and Republicans decided they wanted to control the debates themselves in the 1980's. According to Henkener the League throughout the nation is now in the interesting position of being called very partisan on the issue of Gerrymandering.

Henkener says that, "In every state across the nation one party is getting the short end of the deal when it comes to fair and competitive districts. And every party that is ending up with the short end of the stick is very reform minded. The LWV is also very reform minded so we work together."

She listed some examples. "In California Republicans were getting the short end of the deal so they supported the League's reforms there. California ended up passing the reforms. In Florida the Democrats were getting the short end of the deal. So the Democrats became reform minded and supported the League's reforms there which also passed. Generally whichever party doesn't get the short end of the stick doesn't think that reforms are necessary," she said.

Henkener says, "Theoretically our congressional maps are supposed to be drawn by the Ohio legislature. They are our representatives and are

supposed to have the citizen's best interest in mind." But thanks to the public records request that was made by a coalition led by the League we know what really happened.

The Ohio Campaign for Accountable Redistricting (OCAR) released a comprehensive transparency report on Ohio's redistricting process. The independent group graded state officials a D minus on transparency.

The report, entitled, "The Elephant in the Room", shows that decisions were not made in public. Public input was ignored and the public had limited opportunity to review proposed maps. The public was not provided with relevant data for proposed districts. Nonpartisan redistricting criteria were not used and the criteria used to evaluate plans were never publicly identified.

It also documents:

A concerted strategy of secrecy was employed which included use of a national consultant, secret meetings, and a secret redistricting office.

The plan to shroud the process in secrecy was recommended early on by a national Republican consultant who advised state officials in a series of secret meetings.

\$210,000 was secretly paid to two Republican staffers.

A downtown Double Tree hotel room they called "the bunker" was rented for three months to use as a secret redistricting office. Taxpayers were charged \$10,000 for it.

Speaker of the House John Boehner's team was the primary decision maker for the congressional map.

A last minute change was made to the congressional districts to honor a request from Boehner's team to move the corporate headquarters of a major campaign contributor into a different congressional district. It took just 13 minutes for the request to be fulfilled.

Republican officials believed that

changes they made to state legislative districts could save them millions of dollars in future campaign expenses.

Based on their own political indexes, Republican officials believed they created a congressional plan which would provide a 12 – 4 Republican advantage and a state legislative plan which would ensure their control of the legislature even if there were a strong Democratic year.

Multiple maps were considered including pairings of Congressman Sutton and Fudge, Gibbs and Johnson, and Turner and Jordan.

Requests by State Senator Chris Widener to keep Clark County in one congressional district were ignored because this would hurt the political index for Congressman Stivers' district.

A last minute change was made to split Mercer County into three congressional districts in order to move State Senator Keith Faber's home from the 8th congressional district to the 4th congressional district.

Many questions remain because many of the records requests have not been fulfilled. For example many asking: what lobbying did legislators and congressmen engage in for their districts? What congressional district plans have been proposed in private negotiations between Democratic and Republican politicians? How many other district boundaries were manipulated to raise campaign funds? What else was discussed in the political backrooms?

Last year Issue 2 was a big issue about collective bargaining rights. Most voters voted No on 2. The League of Women Voters urges citizens to become informed about the issues on the November ballot and to vote YES on State Issue 2 this year.

[Editors note: I sit on the Board of Common Cause Ohio.]

**For more information visit:
www.lwvca.org**

For Homeless, Mobiles Are A Life Line

JESSE CALL
The Contributor (USA)
www.street-papers.org

His daughter is in the hospital and is about to die. Her blood work shows she has diabetes but does not know it. He has finally landed a job if he can start later today. She might get a job if she can interview tomorrow morning. The river's about to flood his campsite. She just got assaulted and robbed and needs help.

These are circumstances that the homelessness can face each day, and without access to a mobile phone, such individuals may not get the information or help they need in time. Health care providers, career counselors and those living on the streets say that having access to a mobile phone is essential for the homeless.

Federal and state governments have also long recognized mobile phone access as a need for those experiencing homelessness and poverty. Governments have teamed up with major cell phone service providers to offer free or low-cost cell phones to people with low incomes under the Lifeline Assistance Program. The Universal Service Fee that cell phone subscribers pay on their monthly bills covers the costs of the program, which was set up under a 1996 federal law. To qualify for a free mobile phone with 250 free minutes and 250 free SMS text messages, an applicant needs to show that his or her income falls below 35 percent above the federal poverty guidelines or that he or she is receiving other federal benefits such as SSI or food stamps.

"People shouldn't have to face the decision to pay for phone service or pay for food," said Jack Pflanz, spokesperson for Assurance Wireless, one of the providers of the Lifeline

Assistance Program in Tennessee. "In today's society, I think it is essential that someone experiencing homelessness has access to phone service."

Tool for employment

Critics of the homeless contend that an individual should be doing everything they legally can to bring in more income in order to 'get back on their feet.' For many, this means securing additional employment, a task that is particularly challenging in its own right but which can be further complicated by the lack of regular access to a phone.

Unfortunately, most potential employers are not particularly understanding about the life circumstances of homeless people. Regardless of their housing status, these employers expect employees or potential employees to be available on short-term notice to complete interviews or show up for work. Most employers also expect employees to have his or her own phone number where he or she can be reached and can receive a message, according to local career trainers and counselors.

"In today's job market a job seeker must have an active email address and a reachable phone number," said Connie Humphreys, career development manager of Davidson County at the Nashville Career Advancement Center. "It is not enough to provide this information on a résumé. The job seeker has to regularly check their email and phone for messages and respond immediately. If an employer is not able to reach the applicant or the applicant does not respond quickly to the employer's call to set up an interview, the employer may assume that the person does not really want a

job with their company."

This sentiment is echoed by the state-operated Tennessee Career Centers. "The easier you're accessible, the better likelihood you have for getting a job interview," said RJ Sherr, area manager for the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. He adds that being able to be reached at a moment's notice for an interview should always be a prospective employee's goal. Too often, however, people without regular phone access call back too late, and find out the position has been filled or they are no longer accepting interviews.

"People shouldn't have to face the decision to pay for phone service or pay for food ... In today's society, it is essential that someone experiencing homelessness has access to phone service."

This is exactly why Debra Hyden, who currently homeless in Nashville, says she has a Lifeline Assistance Program phone. "For me, it's to find a job," she said while waiting for a meal from a local ministry. She says that the government-provided phones are the ones she sees most on the street and she expects most others also have them mainly to secure employment.

Also waiting for a meal at the local ministry is a woman who recently graduated from Vanderbilt University but now finds herself homeless because she defaulted on her student loans. She says she does not currently have a cell phone but wants to know more about the Lifeline Assistance Program after overhearing Hyden talking about it. She agrees that having a cell phone would be helpful to her in finding a job and feeling more secure.

Robert A., a veteran of the Marine Corps and vendor of Nashville's

street paper The Contributor who is currently living out of his truck, says that he recently applied at a local Social Security office to get a Lifeline phone. "I'm trying to get a job," he explained, adding that the process for obtaining the phone is a lot of work in

"PEOPLE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO FACE THE DECISION TO PAY FOR PHONE SERVICE OR PAY FOR FOOD ... IN TODAY'S SOCIETY, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SOMEONE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS HAS ACCESS TO PHONE SERVICE."


itself, which has kept him from having time to sell the paper and earn an income. Nevertheless, he says, having a phone will be worth the effort.

Accessing health care

Yet another reason that having access to a mobile phone can be essential to someone experiencing homelessness is that a phone enables more immediate access to medical care.

"Phone service is important for maintaining health," Pflanz at Assurance Wireless said. "Customers need to be in contact with doc-

{Continued on page 7}



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Ohio Justice & Policy Center celebrates its 15th anniversary

JUSTIN JEFFRE
Streetvibes Editor

The Ohio Justice & Policy Center (OJPC) held its second annual fundraising dinner and celebrated the important work that they do. They have a small staff but they have been accomplishing big things when it comes to reforming our criminal justice system in order to make it more just.

The OJPC works to rehabilitate incarcerated people. Their goal is to enable them to successfully reintegrate back into the community and

**"WE NEED TO
LITIGATE, TO
ADVOCATE IN A
WAY THAT WILL
REFORM THE
SYSTEM AND MAKE
IT MORE FAIR"**
-Al Gerhardstein

to eliminate racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

"In Ohio we have 50,000 prisoners, 54% of them are black despite the fact that only 11% of Ohioans are black. The criminal rate of crimes for blacks is no higher than the rate of crimes by whites. We need to litigate, to advocate in a way that will reform the system and make it more fair," said Al Gerhardstein. Gerhardstein founded the organization.

At the end of 2011 Ohio's prisons held 50,000 in a system that was designed to hold just 38,000. That same year Ohio became the first in the nation to sell a state owned prison facility to a private corporation. The Corrections Corporation of America bought it for \$72.7 million.

In 2011 OJPC played a crucial role in getting a Smart-on crime-Reform bill that was passed by the Ohio Senate. According to OJPC's direc-



Al Gerhardstein speaks at OJPC's annual dinner. Photo: Justin Jeffre

tor David Singleton "The whole state benefits when people leaving prison have a better chance at becoming hardworking, tax-paying citizens."

The keynote speaker, Wilbert Rideau, is a former inmate of 44 years in Louisiana State Penitentiary. In 1976, Wilbert became editor of The Angolite, the prisoner-produced newsmagazine, and was the first

prisoner in American penal history to win freedom from censorship. Over the next quarter century, he won many of the nation's highest journalism awards, including the prestigious George Polk Award, for his outstanding contributions to public understanding of the criminal justice and prison systems.

{Continued from page 6}



Like many people experiencing homelessness and poverty, Patricia Reeves uses her cell phone daily to make calls and send texts. Photo: Raven Lintu

tors, clinics and drug stores to be able to get their prescriptions," he said.

The staff at United Neighborhood Health Services (UNHS), a local healthcare service provider that provides healthcare to those without insurance, agrees.

"A great number of our patients suffer from multiple chronic conditions and they are often serious, so it's important for us to be in contact with them," said Bill Friskics-Warren, who coordinates services for people experiencing homelessness at UNHS. "Fortunately, a lot of folks have the government-issued Assurance phones and a lot of folks have Cricket phones," he said, referring to the inexpensive prepaid cell phones that do not require service contracts, which he says some of his clients use.

Cricket is one of many companies offering such service.

Reaching clients quickly can be essential in some circumstances, Friskics-Warren says, especially when laboratory work comes back and shows that a client has a condition that requires immediate treatment. "They may need serious and immediate attention and if we can't find someone we can't manage their condition," he explained.

Another circumstance that frequently arises at UNHS is when his organization is trying to help someone obtain the medication they need for free. "Medications of theirs come in that we've arranged for them to receive directly from

the manufacturer through patient assistance programs," he said. "Being able to reach folks is essential."

Create a safety net

While reaching clients for health care concerns is important, Friskics-Warren at UNHS says that another important need for people experiencing homelessness is to be able to be reached by those who care about them.

"Family members will purchase cell phones and put some minutes on them so they can know that they are safe and OK during their time on the streets," Friskics-Warren said.

"It's all about relationships for people that live in poverty. That's how they survive," added Debbie

Grant, E & T development coordinator at Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, who also serves as chairwoman of the Nashville Coalition for the Homeless. "So their cell phone may be to call a best friend or family member because that's going to be the person that can come and help them."

While she believes that access to a cell phone helps Goodwill's clients get jobs, she also says the access to support from others that a phone provides is key.

"Just having a viable means of communication is more important," she said.

Having a cell phone also helps keep families in touch, particularly for single parents who do not get to see their children all the time. Charlie Edward Keyes, who is also homeless in Nashville, says he uses his phone to speak with his kids in Louisiana.

Pflanz at Assurance Wireless also tells the story of a man who became homeless after being laid off during the auto industry meltdown and how he used his phone to secure new employment and stay in touch and arrange meetings with his kids under a shared custody agreement.

Access to a mobile phone is also good for reaching out during emergencies.

"People might see me holding a lot of ones and mistake me for having a lot of money," Robert A. said. "What if they decided to rob me?"

Web and email access

Having a government-issued or cheap prepaid cell phone is one thing for critics, but often it's the quality of the phone that seems to bother them the most.

On Twitter, "Alex Ferrari" (@amferrari1), from Nashville, wrote: "At a red light on my way home a guy selling the contributor (paper homeless people sell in Nashville) pulls out

a iPhone and makes a call..."

Similarly, "Annelise Walley" (@AnneliseWalley) wrote: "I was about to give this homeless guy on the street some money. Then I saw him pull his iPhone out of his sock. #Nashville."

One Twitter user took it a step further. "Mark Hobson" (@matchstickmgmt), also from Nashville, wrote: "If you have an iPhone, you shouldn't be allowed to sell the contributor. #fact."

However, as more and more employers are requiring immediate Internet and email access, having a smartphone is becoming more than a luxury for those on the street.

"One of the reasons a cell phone is important is so an employer can get back in touch with a person," Grant at Goodwill said. "However, more and more employers are using the computer and job applications that require an email address."

Most free or prepaid phones have very limited web capabilities, making checking email and accessing online applications difficult or impossible. Thus, people without Internet access on their phones have to resort to using public computers like those at the library or outreach organizations, which often limit access to traditional work hours, as well as the amount of time one can spend at a computer before it's the next person's turn.

Humphreys at NCAC echoes the need for people seeking employment to be able to check and respond to emails throughout the day.

"If the jobseeker doesn't respond quickly to an interview invitation, they may not respond to the calls and messages from customers, which will result in poor customer service," she said about employer expectations.

Thus, jobseekers that are able to purchase a smartphone may be making an investment that will-with time, and perhaps a new job-pay off.



World Record Attempts

REUTERS
Staff writer

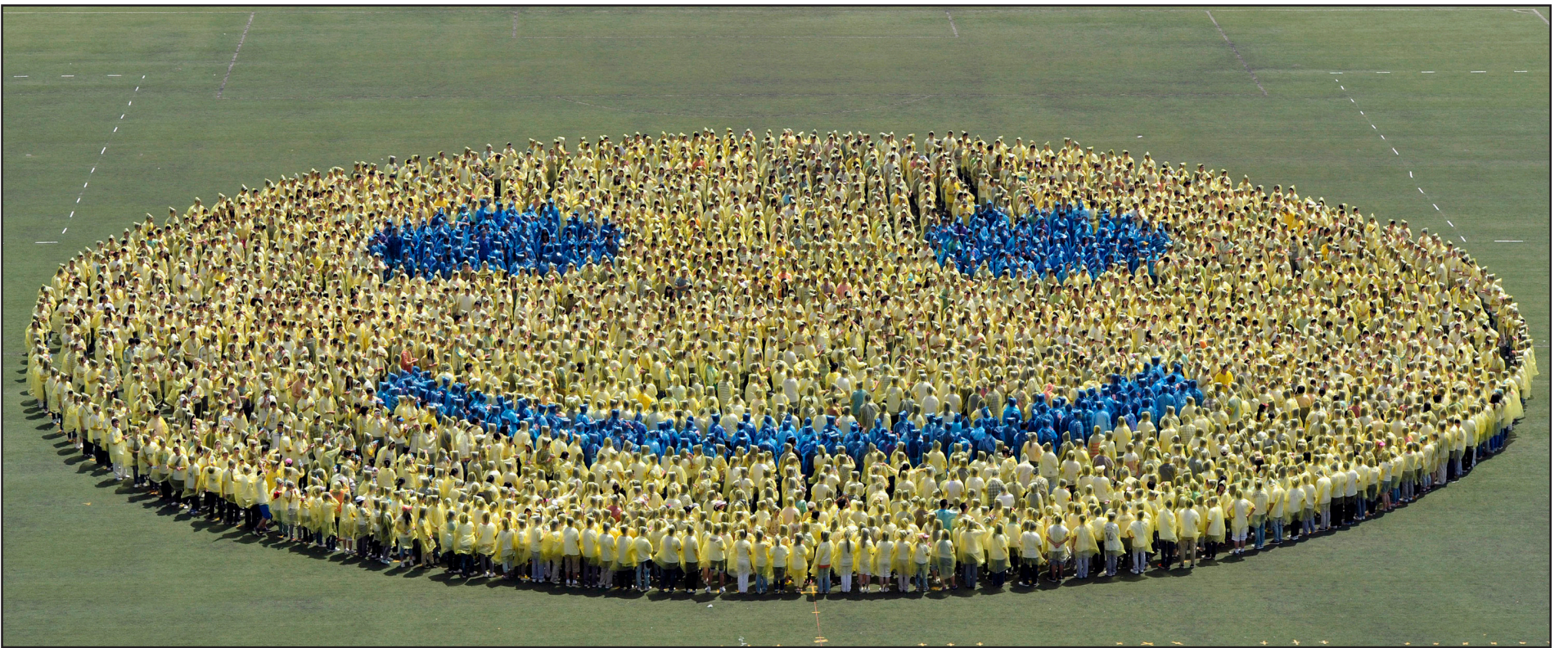
SINCE ITS FIRST EDITION IN 1955, COPIES OF THE GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS HAVE FLOWN OFF BOOKSHOP SHELVES WORLDWIDE. FROM THE WORLD'S LARGEST PIZZA TO THE HAIREST TEENAGER, EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD HAVE SET OUT TO BREAK NEW WORLD RECORDS; BOTH WEIRD AND WONDERFUL. HERE'S OUR PICK OF SOME AMAZING WORLD RECORD ATTEMPTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE.



Four hundred and eighty-five children from the Training Resource and Care for Kids (T.R.A.C.K.S), a charity for single mothers and children, took part in a peace march in an attempt to create a Guinness World Record for being the largest gathering of people dressed as Mahatma Gandhi. Photo: REUTERS/Rupak De Chowdhuri



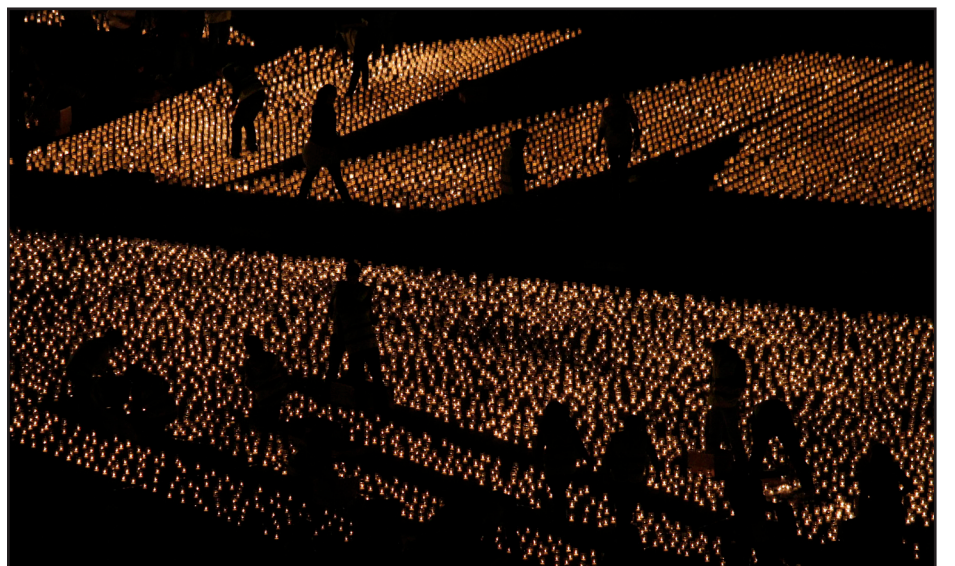
Children hug trees as they attempt a Guinness World Record for the most number of people hugging trees for two minutes in Kathmandu 2011. 879 people took part in the event, which was held on World Environment Day to spread the message of saving the environment. Photo: REUTERS/Navesh Chitrakar



A total of 3,110 students from Nanjing Agricultural University broke the Guinness World Record for World Largest Smiley Face in April 2012, overtaking the last world record of 2,961 volunteers in Canada on July 2011, local media reported. Photo: REUTERS/Sean Yong



The highest number of riders on a single wave at Muizenberg in Cape Town, 2010. Surfers posted an unofficial tally of 95 riders standing on a single wave for more than five seconds but failed to beat the record of 110. Photo: REUTERS/Mike Hutchings



December 17, 2011, Fifty thousand candles were lit in Praça do Comércio, Lisbon's downtown square, as part of an attempt by non-governmental organization Terra dos Sonhos (Land of Dreams). Photo: REUTERS/Hugo Correia

Chicago teachers fight for kids

MIKE CANNON
Contributing Writer

Earlier this month, the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) launched its first strike in 25 years. At a time when strikes seems more like a historical throwback than a modern tactic of a weak labor movement, their showdown with Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel sparked a heated debate over the future of public education.

Faced with imminent school closures and layoffs after a summer of stalled negotiations, on September 10th teachers decided to walk-off the job.

The source of the frustration felt by teachers, and many parents and students, is an aggressive school “reform” agenda championed by both Republicans and Democrats. One of the key features of this plan is increasing the number of “charter” schools (schools which are privately managed, but with public funds). Teachers argued that not only are charter schools no more effective than

traditional public schools, but putting education in the hands of private corporations reduces community oversight and accountability.

The city has also been pushing for “standardized tests” to be used as measures for a teacher’s performance. CTU responded that, not only are these tests not good measures of learning, but student performance cannot be the sole responsibility of teachers. Many children in Chicago suffer from malnutrition, domestic abuse, and neighborhood violence, no doubt affected their school performance.

Chicago’s unelected school board (CPS) and their allies sought to paint CTU as greedy and lazy, concerned only with increasing their salaries and protecting bad teachers. Faced with this PR smear campaign, the union mobilized its members to forge ties with communities and neighborhoods throughout Chicago, both to express their own message, but to also hear the concerns of parents and students.

Through grassroots organizing, the teachers and their community

partners were able to put forward a broader vision of quality education for all. While state law prohibits the union from striking over many issues, the union leadership made it clear that the strike was also about smaller classes sizes, more art and music classes for kids, more social workers to council troubled students, and air conditioners in classrooms. As one fifth grade teacher put it, “Our struggle has not just been about simply a contract...This has been about returning power to where it belongs: amongst the working people and the communities they serve.”

During the seven-day strike, it was hard to walk two blocks without running into a crowd of red-shirted union supporters cheering and passing cars honking with approval. Polls showed a clear majority of Chicagoans supported the teachers in their fight. This was despite media portrayals of teachers as incompetent and over-paid.

After over a week, the city finally agreed to negotiate in good faith and teachers were able to sign-off on a

deal filled with many small victories. Although the union did not win all of its demands, important concessions were won.

CTU was able to secure “recall rights” for many laid-off teachers. This means when new teaching positions open up, jobless teachers get priority. CPS will also be investing funds into AC units for classrooms and standardized test scores will no longer be the major factor in teaching performance evaluations.

As several union officials have said, “this strike is not the end, but the beginning”. A number of schools are slated to close in November and CTU aims to build on the strike momentum and force the Mayor to back down yet again.

At a time when labor unions are weaker than ever and wages for working class Americans have been stagnate for decades, this strike victory could mark a turning point for the American labor movement. The teachers of Chicago remind us that when communities band together and fight, they win.



Photo: Mike Cannon



Photo: Mike Cannon

CCM Drama students celebrate the Occupy Movement on OWS’s anniversary



Photo: Justin Jeffre

JUSTIN JEFFRE
Streetvibes Editor

On September 17th drama students at CCM marked the anniversary of Occupy Wall Street by acting out the words of people that have been a part of the movement. Some of the students participated in the movement in NY and in other cities

including right here in Cincinnati.

The students conducted interviews with people that were a part of Occupy Wall Street and off shoots like Occupy Cincinnati. They say they want to conduct more interviews and have more performances of the evolving piece they are creating. They say there are plans in the works to do another



Photo: Justin Jeffre

performance of the piece in Piatt Park, possibly on an anniversary of arrests in the park.

As part of its educational mission, CCM Drama encourages community engagement by actors in the program. They train artists to ask big questions while searching for larger answers. The show was a partnership with CCM Drama and The Civilians for

#S17 Occupy.

Occupy Cincinnati kicked off on October 8th in Lytle Park. The work of these students is proof that the spirit of the occupy movement is still very much alive here in Cincinnati even if it now takes a different forms of expression.



In Greece, People Demand Dignity



Taki Manolakos speaks at Clifton Cultural Arts Center Sunday September 23, 2012.
Photo: Justin Jeffre

STREETVIBES' INTERVIEWS WITH TAKI MANOLAKOS

Streetvibes: What is the importance of the Greek situation for Americans?

Taki: An important aspect of daily life for many is the tyranny of loneliness and poverty. Our rulers and the governments they control have imposed this tyranny in order to preserve institutions that serve their economic interests. We must break out of our isolation and reestablish our basic dignity as people and we cannot do it alone.

Winning the fight for dignity depends on understanding events beyond our shores. It's a fundamental idea that has a noble genealogy in America going back to Thomas Paine and W.E.B. Du Bois, who I consider great American thinkers.

There's another reason too. Some politicians tell you that the cause of our economic problems in America is that "jobs are going to China." Not many seem to worry about who buys the stuff that American workers produce. Europe is an important American trading partner. If European workers can't buy American goods, then who will? China? Most Chinese generally live at a lower standard of living, so that's not a good answer.

Think about it. If Europe continues on its current road, let's say that a serious financial crisis develops, that would affect America. The people of Greece have put up a stop sign. Enough is enough, in America, Europe, Latin America and Africa.

Streetvibes: What is it like for the common person to be a Greek today?

Taki: Greeks live in difficult times. The country has always been poor when compared to the other nations of Europe. Today the situation is unbearable. Consider that unemployment is roughly the same as it was in America during the Great Depression of the 1930s. That gives you an idea of problem and suffering of the Greek people. Many Greeks simply don't have jobs. The country is facing an economic catastrophe.

Every day is just a battle for survival. Will I have enough money to buy food? Will my kids be hungry? Many people are leaving the country in search of work. Others move in with their parents to cut down on rent. For these and other reasons, working class folk have reached their breaking point and started to defend themselves. Even the "middle class" is suffering. I don't mean rich people that live in wealthy areas, closed off from the rest of the world. These are people who may run a small business selling not much more than laundry detergent and cigarettes. The result has been social unrest.

This spirit of rebellion takes many forms. Recently, the government decided it was going to levy a new tax. It decided to use the electricity company as a collection agency. A new charge appeared on everyone's electric bill. If you couldn't pay, then the government would shut off your electricity. Lots of people simply refused to pay. When the electric company showed up and attempted to turn off their power, people refused to let them into their homes. There was nothing that the power company could do about it. There were and are lots of strikes by the unions. Workers of the Greek equivalent of the New York Times have been on strike for a long time now and the paper has not printed a single edition in months.

{Continued on page 11}

Social media gives voice to Berlin's homeless

After 26 years of sporadically living on the streets, Helmut Richard Brox chose to share his experience through a website, which offers advice, help and hope to Germany's homeless. Four years on, its success has won him a nomination for the 'Deutschen Engagement Preis' (German Prize for Civic Engagement). He reflects on the nomination, Berlin and how the internet can help people in need.

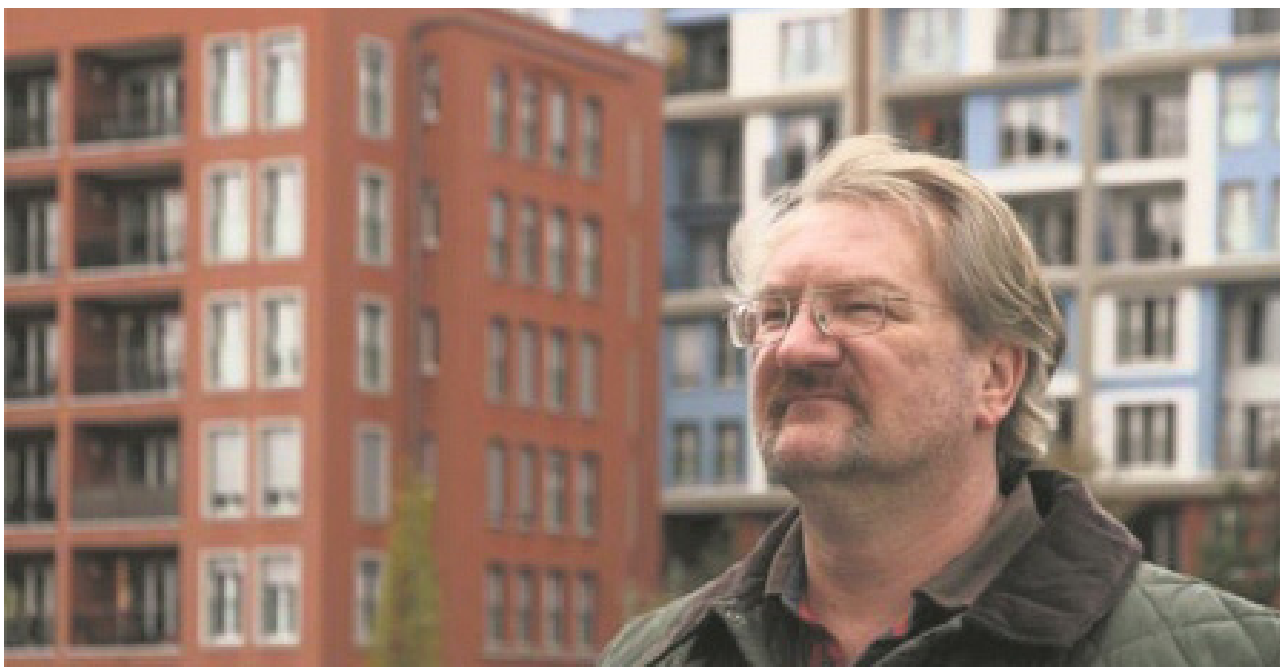
ANNE JULIANE WIRTH
Staff Writer
Strassenfeger (Germany)
www.streetnewsservice.org

Helmut Richard Brox is homeless - and dedicated. The computer in the internet cafe is buzzing; the sound of monotone typing is occasionally punctuated by mouse clicks. A man with glasses, light grey hair and three-day stubble sits hypnotised by a computer screen. His fingers fly over the keyboard. Skilfully, he uses search engines, answers e-mails, blogs, updates information on his three websites, sends links and generally greets the digital world. Helmut Richard Brox is well connected. He has a proud 31 Facebook subscribers and 119 follow him on Twitter.

The fact that this media man is homeless is not something the other customers probably realise. Yet, Helmut Richard Brox has lived for over 26 years - with sporadic intermissions - on the street. The 48-year-old identifies himself as someone who has intentionally opted to be homelessness and moves from place to place. The Mannheimer was also on the move in Berlin. "The capital is the friendliest city in Germany," he assures. Good friends and a "fling in Hellersdorf" as well as visits to the internet cafe has shaped his residence there.

"I got a kick out of it"

"In 1999 I learnt how to use a computer and the World Wide Web. I slept in a shelter but couldn't



Helmut Richard Brox has been nominated for the 'Deutschen Engagement Preis' (German Prize for Civic Engagement) for his work with fellow homeless people in Germany. Photo: Helmut Richard Brox

be there during the day." On a rainy day in November, Brox sought refuge in an internet cafe on Kurfürstendamm. There he met a pair from 'The Chaos Computer Club,' who introduced the long term homeless man to the digital world by creating an e-mail address and website for him.

"So many people are living on the poverty line, are isolated and feel embarrassed - I want to give them a voice. With my website everyone should be able to find a way back into civic life."

From then on Brox saved money for visits to the internet cafe. Later he began to expand his website to include an information portal. "I got a kick out of it. After a while it began to look more professional," he says proudly. At www.ohnewohnung-wasnun.de and www.woundwie.blog.de he identifies safe homeless spaces throughout the whole of Germany, blogs about his life and offers advice to fellow homeless people. Over 900 addresses are available

{Continued on page 12}

From In Greece

{Continued from page 10}

The entire society has been gripped by a new common sense that the current situation can't continue. It's everywhere.

Streetvibes: The European Union's financial institutions have imposed budget cuts on Greece, how have the Greek people responded?

Taki: People have responded with individual initiatives like the "we won't pay" movement. But they realize that there is no individual solution to what is basically a national problem. They have organized in new and old ways geared towards defending the people's interests.

The Greek island of Crete is a good example. The island is one of Greece's largest and sits between Greece and Egypt in the Mediterranean Sea. The island has a rich history of resistance to occupation by foreign forces. During the Second World War, it was a hotbed of Greek resistance against the Nazis.

I visited a small village that was the site of a notable massacre by the Germans during WWII. A neo-Nazi party called Golden Dawn attempted to enter the village during election season to campaign for their candidates. The villagers would have nothing to do with it. The idea that neo-Nazis might enter the village was treasonous to the locals.

Everyone knows about the Nazi occupation; everyone knows a story about someone's grandfather who died during the resistance. Old folk tell these stories to their grandchildren. The general sentiment was clear: my grandfather died fighting Nazis, and you fools have the nerve to try to enter my village. The outcome was that virtually the entire village gathered when Golden Dawn attempted to enter the main square and forbade them from proceeding.

They departed with their tails between their legs.

Streetvibes: Do you see the European Union and Greece being able to reconcile their differences and bring about an end to the crisis?

Taki: The road out of the crisis will not be found in financial and political negotiations between Greek politicians and European technocrats. Greece must refuse to pay the usurers. The people have rejected supposedly progressive political parties that sold them out and the rotten political system. But it is not enough for political parties that actually have the people's interests at their core to win the elections, like the Coalition of the Radical Left (SYRIZA), although that is a must. What is now needed is a democratic alliance of patriots, leftists and people of character to take the country off the road to catastrophe. Those who sold the country to the EU technocrats, the International Monetary Fund, that great credit bureau of the international banking system have no place on this new road.

There also has to be productive reconstruction. The European Union has destroyed Greece economically. There must be a nationwide discussion on such reconstruction. All must participate in this discussion: Greek and foreign scientists, government agencies, trade unions, cooperatives, small businesses, on a nationwide scale, assemblies of the people and workers. Their findings can be placed before the voters in a referendum.

But we need to move quickly. If we merely wait for the great day to come, all we will get are tanks in the wee hours of the morning.

Streetvibes: Thanks for your time and for giving us your insights on what is happening in Greece.

"The Global Frack-down" in Piatt Park

JUSTIN JEFFRE
Streetvibes Editor

On September 22nd about 40 people gathered at Piatt Park for an anti-fracking rally. Greenpeace along with Food and Water Watch and Southwest Ohio No Frack Forum organized the event which was part of the first international demonstration against fracking.

At the beginning of the rally organizers instructed people to call their representatives on the Gas and Energy Committee and demand a public hearing on a Bill related to fracking. "I put in the number and at first I heard a recorded message from someone from the Global Frackdown repeating the instructions. And then I was connected to the voice mail of my representative," said Ellen Beirhorst a local activist.

Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) is a technique used to extract natural shale-gas from below the Earth's surface. The Marcellus Shale is a massive underground geological formation that stretches from parts of New York through Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Tennessee and Virginia.

In order to extract the gas they drill holes thousands of feet down into the ground. Then the drilling goes horizontally for thousands of feet more. Millions of gallons of water are mixed with toxic chemicals and silica sand. These high pressure fluids along with explosive charges fracture the shale which releases the gas and it bubbles up to the surface.

They use as many as 750 chemicals which are "trade secrets" but the ones we know about are known carcinogens. Where the toxic fracking fluids go isn't entirely known. States like Pennsylvania and New York have banned wastewater injection wells which are used to dispose of



September 22, 2012 Environmentalist march from Piatt Park to City Hall. Photo: Anna Bentley.



Wendell Young speaks at Global Frack Down Rally in Piatt Park, September 22, 2012. Photo: Anna Bentley.

the fluids, but Ohio hasn't. Now Ohio has become a dumping ground for their wastewater. Half of the fracking wastewater being injected into Ohio's well sites comes from out of state, including Pennsylvania and as far away as Texas.

Food and Water Watch coordinator Alison Auciello spoke about a "Haliburton Loophole" which exempted power companies from regulations from the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Air Act. She said the Ohio Department of Natural Resources was given sole power to determine policies related to oil and gas and, "They are totally on the side of the industry."

Auciello said the state of Ohio wants to frack on public lands like state parks in order to generate revenue. "Governor Kasich's recent energy bill rolls out the red carpet for the oil and gas industry," she said.

Cincinnati's geology isn't suited for fracking, but it does make us a prime location for waste wells. The majority of Cincinnati's water comes from the Ohio River, but the Cincinnati Water Works does have a plant on the Great Miami Aquifer which is highly vulnerable to waste water injection.

Council members Wendell Young, Laurie Quinlivan and Vice Mayor Roxanne Qualls spoke at the rally. City Council passed an ordinance banning the injection of waste on any land in the city. The city's lawyers cleverly got around a 2004 State law prohibiting municipalities from keeping wastewater injection wells out by making no mention of gas. Other municipalities are now following Cincinnati's lead.

Wendell Young, who sponsored the ordinance, said he did for selfish reasons. "I want clean air, water and soil," he said. "When you gather, it makes it easy for elected representatives to champion this cause."

According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the injection of fracking waste into a disposal well Youngstown caused 11 recent earthquakes here in Ohio. And in July 19 year old Paul Sherman was killed in an explosion at a fracking well in Bolivar, Ohio.

Father Neil Pezzulo, the Vicar General of the Glenmary Home Missioners said, "God said care for creation." Adding, "We who are privileged must speak up for the rural poor who are too busy just surviving to speak up for themselves."



Remembering Larry Gibson

BEN STOCKWELL
Contributing Writer

I only met Larry Gibson once. It was on his mountain, in his little cabin, huddled close to a wood burning stove. We were visiting coal country, and preparing to bring the knowledge we learned back to school, so we could fight against the coal plant on Miami University's campus. He explained to us his story, indelibly intertwined with the story of the Appalachian mountains. And he gave us an ultimatum, Larry, nicknames "keeper of the mountains," didn't want to talk to us if we weren't going to do something about the mountains; we had to promise we weren't wasting his time. When he died in early September, it was a blow to the environmental movement that seems almost impossible to recover from.

Kayford mountain, the homestead of Larry's family, and where he had a small cabin appropriately named "Larry's Place," stood at the center of the mountaintop removal debate.

When I visited in 2010 it stood as the tallest mountain in the area, but 20 years before, it was the opposite. The mining executives made good on a promise one of them made to Larry in the early 90s: that if you don't sell, Kayford will become "like an island" in an ocean.

That's not a good way to put it. Below the surface of oceans, the waters are teeming with life, with intricate cosmos of organisms well suited to their environment, where a precarious balance of nature is like an intimate ballet. The water in the executive's metaphor is today, more like the surface of the moon. Barren and grey, the only indication of life is the human footprint left behind in the form of mining machines and their tracks. Larry didn't want any of that, not for his mountain, and not for any of the others.

Driving up to Larry's Place, you wouldn't know that there was any mining taking place, with the worst offenders hidden behind untouched mountains along the highways and gulch roads. When Larry took us



Larry Gibson showing the damage to the landscape. Photo: Ben Stockwell.

to the "Gates of Hell", where his property ended and the mines began, we were finally able to appreciate the devastation caused by mountaintop removal coal mining.

The process occurs in three stages. First, the mountain is cleared of all vegetation. Usually trees that would be harvested and sold elsewhere are bulldozed into the valleys. When the brush is all cleared, and all that's left is a lifeless mound of dirt, and core sample drilling has determined the depth of the coal seams, the layers of earth are peeled away one by one until a seam of coal is extracted. Once that seam is mined, the process is repeated over and over until the costs (monetarily) are too great. Of course, the environmental costs are huge. When the coal is exhausted the mountain is supposed to be returned to its "approximate original contour." This means taking the mixture of rocks and dirt and waste generated along the way, and packing down the mountain, if it can still be called that. Entire ecosystems are destroyed, the topsoil is gone, and nothing can live there except for the invasive turf

that can also, incidentally, grow on concrete.

But this isn't happening without a fight, and Larry was a monolith in environmental activism. His motto, "Love Them or Leave Them, Just Don't Destroy Them," is a reminder that we're not just fighting against the horrible practices of the mining companies, but that we're fighting to preserve a kind of nature that today is commodified and missing from our daily experience, probably for the worse. Larry lived in the middle of the best and worst of all of this. As the steward of Kayford, he lived in a sublime wilderness, and just a half mile or so in any direction was his reminder of just how far capitalism was willing to go to reap enormous profits.

Though he stood just over 5 feet tall, his presence was remarkable. His courageousness in the face of immense pressure has inspired a whole generation of young activists to always stand up for what is right, I know it did it for me. There was no way I could go home and do nothing, and I still haven't shaken the question "who has to suffer so we can keep the lights on?" We all stand



Larry Gibson taking a stand on his land. Photo: Ben Stockwell.

From Social Media

{Continued from page 10}

and he has personally visited most of the establishments. The maintenance of his website is paid for through donations and out of his own pocket.

Robbed and beaten

Estimations by the Federal Association for the Homeless in 2010 show that around 248,000 people in Germany are homeless. The fact that life on the street is dangerous is something Helmut Richard Brox has personally experienced. He grew up in a children's home before he choose the streets and fell into drug addiction. The vicious cycle of theft, drug crime and violence can only be avoided by the few. Yet, Brox made it through his addiction.

In 2009 when he was on a street in Alsace he was robbed by youths, beaten up and badly injured. As a result of the attack Brox sustained a locomotor disorder, which still affects him. Furthermore, he has been affected by Morbus Scheuermann, a growth disorder of the spine: "My friend had it a lot worse. After a knife attack he had to have an emergency operation." Brox has learned from this: he no longer chooses to sleep on a park bench. Despite all this, it's clear to him that, "In the many years that I have lived on the streets, many people have helped me."

"An exemplary role model"

The internet has changed his life. And now he wants to give something back with his website. "Finally I have a mission and can utilise other people. Brox is online daily for 1 to 2 hours and receives up to 40 e-mails. "A short while ago a young man called me wanting to know what was going to become

of him in the future." Brox likes to give tips and on this occasion he gave the advice, "See that you give out as little as possible. The less the outside world sees, the greater your protection." Nothing on the streets is more important than total anonymity.

Brox has to thank Klaus-Dieter May, the founder of the citizen initiative in Berlin 'For Fairness against harassment,' for nominating him for the 2012 'Deutschen Engagement Preis' in May. The distinction appreciates people, organisations and businesses as well as administrations that show they are dedicated to civic causes. "Brox is a good and exemplary role model," says May. "He deserves recognition, attention and support for his selfless dedication. "

The prize winners will be announced on the 5 December 2012, but Helmut Richard Brox is already profiting from the award. He gives interviews and has more site views than ever before. "The nomination means far more to me," he says. "So many people are living on the poverty line, are isolated and feel embarrassed - I want to give them a voice. With my website everyone should be able to find a way back into civic life."

Translated from German into English by Nina Smith.

"SO MANY PEOPLE ARE LIVING ON THE POVERTY LINE, ARE ISOLATED AND FEEL EMBARRASSED - I WANT TO GIVE THEM A VOICE. WITH MY WEBSITE EVERYONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND A WAY BACK INTO CIVIC LIFE."

Cyclists Own The Road Too!

JUSTIN JEFFRE
Streetvibes Editor

On September 4th about 550 cyclists rode on what they called a ghost ride to pay their respects to the life of fellow cyclist, Andrew Gast, and to raise awareness about safety. Gast was an Over-the-Rhine resident that was fatally struck by a motorist near Lunken Airport on Wilmer Ave on August 28th. He was only 27 years old.

The ghost ride began at 6:30PM at Lunken airport and went along Eastern Ave all the way to Gast's home in OTR. As they rode back to Wilmer Ave the weather was nice and as the sun was beginning to set there was a light mist.

When they arrived where the tragic accident had occurred there

was a ghost bike that had been painted all white that served as a memorial. There they shared a moment of silence and a touching moment of remembrance with his family.

The ghost ride and ghost bike ceremony were organized by the Cincinnati Cycle Club, MoBo Bicycle Co-op and Queen City Bike. The Cincinnati Cycle Club president, John Chester, told the family and the crowd that he had seen troubling comments on the internet that blamed Gast for the accident because he was riding in the road and not on the bike trail. "He had every single right in the world to do what he was doing," he said. And, "God bless you, Andrew."

The bike trail gets rough along that section and cyclists are legally allowed to ride on the road.



Memorial to Andrew Gast, killed while riding his bike on August 28th.
Photo: Justin Jeffre



More than 500 cyclists turned out for the Ghost Ride. Photo: Justin Jeffre

Unfortunately many motorists don't know that cyclists are supposed to ride on the road and not on sidewalks. Many cyclists say they encounter angry motorists that come dangerously close to them and yell at them for being on the roads.

Chester mentioned that on the ride back from OTR there was an elderly lady that had a sign that said, "I hope you enjoy your ride on God's bike path." Then another cyclist nearby said, "It's all downhill in heaven."

Gast's family thanked the crowd for being there to show their support and told them that it was helping them heal. Gast's father said that if it had happened to somebody else he would have been at the rally for them.

Organizers said they hoped the ghost bike would remain there

**"I HOPE YOU ENJOY
YOUR RIDE ON
GOD'S BIKE PATH."**

for a long time to raise awareness for motorists and cyclists that they need to share the roads and be extra cautious because too often accidents can be fatal. An emotional Chester said, "I hope I don't need to attend another one of these ever again." The bike remained locked to a sign with a helmet on it.

Cincinnati has been adding bike trails and signage in an effort to make the city more bicycle-friendly. A lot more work needs to be done so that we don't see more tragedies.

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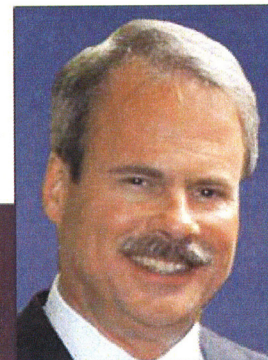


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MICHAEL'S GONE

Michael's gone
His fans felt all alone,
When the world heard Michael was gone.
The greatest entertainer in the world,
I will always be his girl.
Michael should never had been alone,
Too bad he couldn't pick up the phone,
Too bad Michael's gone.
His big heart, that one and only voice
His smile that always dazzled the crowd.
His footwork and spins, no one could touch him,
He would always win.
The world has lost his wonderful songs.
He would always make us feel we were never alone when
he would sing his songs.
Music history has lost its place
Without Michael's special face
His beautiful eyes could make you cry.
Too bad Michael had to die.
He died so sad, OD'd in his bed.
It all started when he got burned on his head.
Looks like Mike lost that fight, that night.
When I heard he had died, I just cried, cried, cried
He really was like a family member
Growing up with him I'll always remember.
He was like a songbird with outreach from a far
We have lost a shining star
He is finally back with the Lord.
God watched over his humming bird.

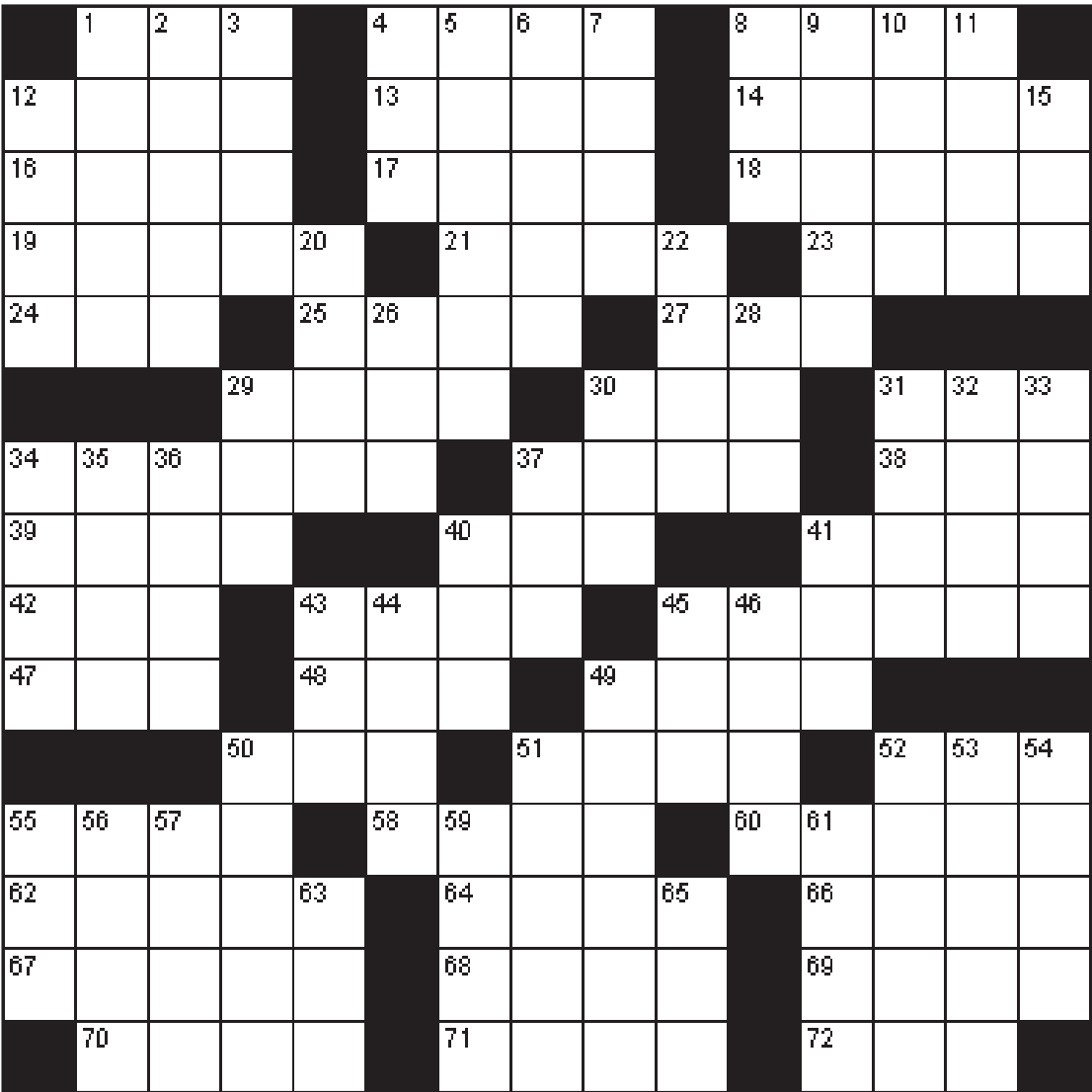
By Kim Green, Streetvibes Distributor

APPRECIATION

Appreciation is a word that can be reckoned with
Appreciation is something we often times consider a myth
Appreciation is something I give to God each day for my living above ground
And for his blessing of putting people in my life so stable and sound
To understand just what it is that I as a person need to honestly appreciate
And to know that my mission of appreciation will not be a simple piece of cake
Through being jailed and being homeless, not to mention in the world all by myself
I've learned to appreciate the hand that God to me has gracefully dealt
I've learn to never forget the past and look forward to each day even though not promised
I've learned to forgive but not forget and stop being a doubting Thomas
I recognize and therefore appreciate the changes my life has ultimately taken
I've learned to appreciate my faults, for without them there would be no lesson
I've learned to recognize my short comings and now I appreciate God's Almighty Blessings

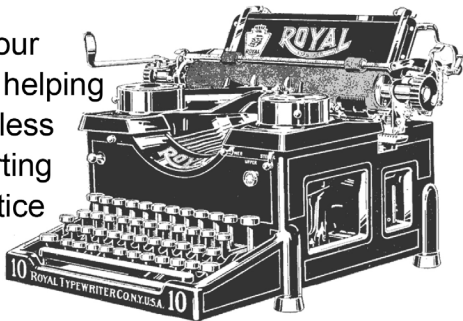
By Willa Denise Jones, Streetvibes Distributor

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Email streetvibes@cincihomeless.org

Across

1. Snakelike fish
4. Assist in crime
8. Particle
12. Imitate
13. Fruit
14. Pulsate
16. Bad time for Julius
17. Border
18. Wipe out
19. Laconic
21. Sediment
23. Additional to or different from
24. Attempt
25. Slightly open
27. Cut down
29. Form of transport
30. Vitality
31. Fuss
34. Study of plants

37. Bill of fare

38. Napkin
39. Quartz used in cameos
40. Used to control a horse
41. As well
42. High mountain
43. Fraud
45. Each
47. Cereal grass seeds
48. Paddle
49. Aromatic herb
50. Fitting
51. Champion
52. Droop
55. Tablet
58. Aspersion
60. Languish
62. Residence
64. In the middle

66. Halo

67. Defamation
68. Shade of blue
69. Pack tightly
70. Medieval land worker
71. Hinge joint
72. Conifer
33. Woodwind instrument
34. Male hog
35. Merely
36. Variety
37. Coalesce
40. Saloon
41. Be unwell
43. Jump
44. Annual grass seeds
45. Melody
46. Gambit

49. Infer

50. Tree with conelike fruit
51. Person
52. Fry quickly in fat
53. Pointer
54. Chew
55. Buddy
56. Wading bird
57. Part of the ear
59. Long and thin
61. Facile
63. Mischievous fairy
65. Staining substance
- Down
1. Type of duck
2. Mineral used as an abrasive
3. Not as great

4. Simian

5. Pandemonium
6. Avid
7. Woody plant
8. Consumed
9. Tossed
10. Unwritten exam
11. Flowerless plant
12. Glove
15. Insect
20. Yield
22. Tibia
26. Crested bird
28. Flightless bird
29. Charge
30. Animal doctor, in short
31. Fit
32. Saucer

Shelter: Women and Children

Central Access Point	381-SAFE
Bethany House	557-2873
1841 Fairmount Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45214	
Grace Place Catholic Worker House	681-2365
6037 Cary Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45224	
Salvation Army	762-5660
131 E. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
YWCA Battered Women’s Shelter	872-9259

Shelter: Men

City Gospel Mission	241-5525
1419 Elm Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Justice Watch	241-0490
St. Fran/St. Joe Catholic Work. House	381-4941
1437 Walnut Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Mt. Airy Shelter	661-4620

Shelter: Both

Lighthouse on Highland	961-4080
2522 Highland Ave., Cinti., OH. 45219	
Caracole (HIV/AIDS)	569-9500
1821 Summit Road, Cinti, Ohio 45237	
Drop Inn Center	721-0643
217 W. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Interfaith Hospitality Network	471-1100
Lighthouse Youth Center (Youth)	221-3350
3330 Jefferson, Cinti, Ohio 45220	

Housing:

CMHA	721-4580
Excel Development	632-7149
OTR Community Housing	381-1171
114 W. 14th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Tender Mercies	721-8666
27 W. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Tom Geiger House	961-4555
Dana Transitional Bridge Services	751-0643
Volunteers of America	381-1954
Anna Louise Inn	421-5211
Cincinnati Union Bethel	768-6907
300 Lytle Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	

Food/Clothing

Lord’s Pantry	621-5300
OTR/Walnut Hills Kitchen & Pantry	961-1983
OTR: 1620 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Walnut Hills: 2631 Gilbert, Cinti, Ohio 45206	
Our Daily Bread	621-6364
1730 Race Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
St. Francis Soup Kitchen	535-2719

Churches Active in Northside	591-2246
4230 Hamilton Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45223	
FreeStore/FoodBank	241-1064
112 E. Liberty Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Madisonville Ed & Assistance Center	271-5501
4600 Erie Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45227	
Serves area codes: 45226, 45227, 45208, 45209	
St. Vincent de Paul	562-8841
1125 Bank Street, Cinti, Ohio 45214	

Treatment: Men

Charlie’s 3/4 House	784-1853
2121 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Prospect House	921-1613
682 Hawthorne Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45205	
Starting Over	961-2256

Treatment: Women

First Step Home	961-4663
2203 Fulton, Cinti, Ohio 45206	

Treatment: Both

AA Hotline	351-0422
CCAT	381-6672
830 Ezzard Charles Dr. Cinti, Ohio 45214	
Joseph House (Veterans)	241-2965
1522 Republic Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Hamilton County ADAS Board	946-4888
Recovery Health Access Center	281-7422
Sober Living	681-0324
Talbert House	641-4300

Advocacy

Catholic Social Action	421-3131
Community Action Agency	569-1840
Contact Center	381-4242
1227 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Franciscan JPIC	721-4700
Gr. Cinti Coalition for the Homeless	421-7803
117 E. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Intercommunity Justice & Peace Cr.	579-8547
Legal Aid Society	241-9400
Ohio Justice & Policy Center	421-1108
Faces Without Places	363-3300
Stop AIDS	421-2437

Health

Center for Respite Care	621-1868
3550 Washington Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45229	
Crossroad Health Center	381-2247

5 E. Liberty St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Health Resource Center	357-4602
Homeless Mobile Health Van	352-2902
McMicken Dental Clinic	352-6363
40 E. McMicken Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Mental Health Access Point	558-8888
Mercy Franciscan at St. John	981-5800
1800 Logan St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
NAMI of Hamilton County	458-6670
PATH Outreach	977-4489

Other Resources

Center Independent Living Options	241-2600
Emmanuel Community Center	241-2563
1308 Race St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Peaslee Neighborhood Center	621-5514
214 E. 14th St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Franciscan Haircuts from the Heart	381-0111
1800 Logan St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Goodwill industries	771-4800
Healing Connections	751-0600
Mary Magdalen House	721-4811
1223 Main St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
People Working Cooperatively	351-7921
The Caring Place	631-1114
United Way	211
Women Helping Women	977-5541
Off The Streets	421-5211

Hamilton/Middletown

St. Raephaels	863-3184
Salvation Army	863-1445
Serenity House Day Center	422-8555
Open Door Pantry	868-3276

Northern Kentucky

Brighton Center	859-491-8303
799 Ann St. Newport, KY	
ECHO/Hosea House	859-261-5857
Fairhaven Resuce Mission	859-491-1027
Homeward Bound Youth	859-581-1111
Mathews House	859-261-8009
Homeless & Housing Coalition	859-727-0926
Parish Kitchen	859-581-7745
Pike St. Clinic	859-291-9321
Transitions, Inc	859-491-4435
Welcome House of NKY	859-431-8717
205 West Pike Street, Covington, KY 41011	
Women’s Crisis Center	859-491-3335
VA Domiciliary	859-559-5011
VA Homeless	859-572-6226

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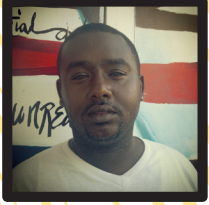
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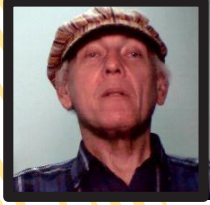
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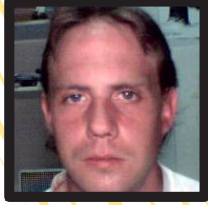
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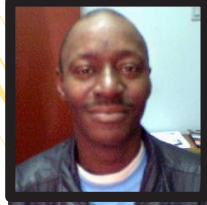
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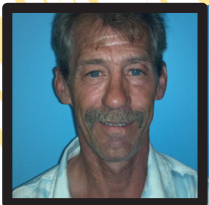
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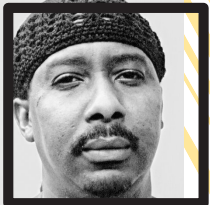
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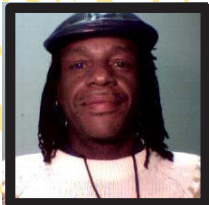
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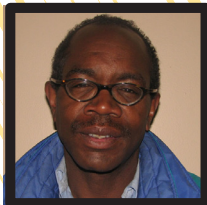
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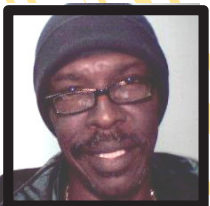
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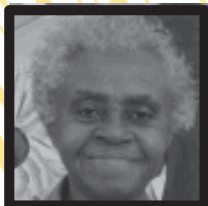
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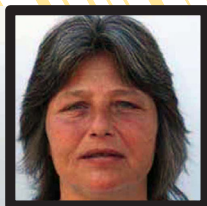
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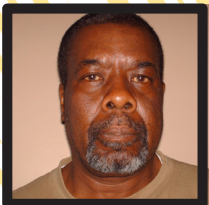
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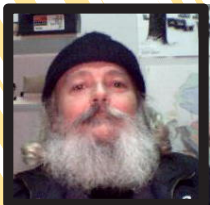
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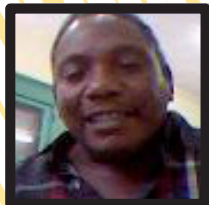
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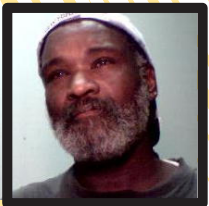
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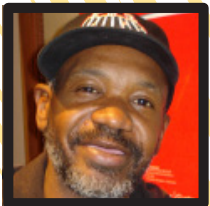
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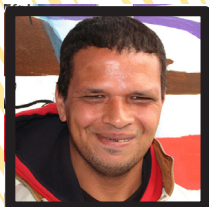
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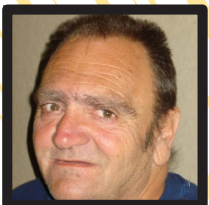
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RANSON**
SINCE 10/2008



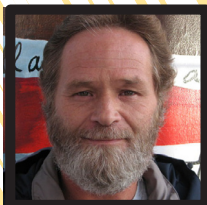
**TIM
NEUMANN**
NEW 7/2011



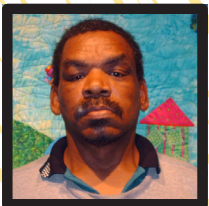
**TOMMY
THOMPSON**
SINCE 2/2009



**WILLA
JONES**
SINCE 1/2010



**W. KENNETH
BUSSELL**
SINCE 10/2009



**WILLIAM
BURDINE**
SINCE 8/2009



CODE OF CONDUCT

All Streetvibes Distributors must abide by the following rules. They are made aware that any infraction of the rules may result in suspension of their privilege to distribute Streetvibes and possible termination from the program.

Streetvibes will be distributed for a dollar fifty (\$1.50). Distributors agree not to ask for more than \$1.50 or solicit donations for Streetvibes by any other means. If a customer donates more than \$1.50 for a paper, distributors are allowed to keep the donation.

Distributors only purchase papers from the Homeless Coalition. Each paper can be purchased for a cost of 50 cents. Distributors must show their badge when buying papers.

Distributors will never buy papers from and/or distribute papers to other distributors.

Distributors agree to treat all others – customers, staff, and other distributors – respectfully. Distributors will not use abusive language or force someone to buy a paper. Distributors will not give a “hard sell” or be aggressive. Distributors will not continue to ask someone if they want a Streetvibes after they have verbally or non-verbally said no and they will not make someone feel threatened.

Distributors will not panhandle while distributing Streetvibes.

Distributors agree to stay off private property when distributing Streetvibes. Distributors will not distribute Streetvibes door to door.

Distributors will not stand in front of doorways, walkways, crosswalks or parking meters nor will I impede traffic or sit down while distributing Streetvibes.

Distributors understand they are not employees of Streetvibes or the Homeless Coalition but a contract worker responsible for their own well-being and income.

Distributors agree not to distribute additional goods or products when distributing Streetvibes.

Distributors will not distribute Streetvibes or purchase Streetvibes under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

There are no territories among distributors. However, distributors must respect the space of other distributors, particularly the space of distributors who have been at a spot longer.

It is unacceptable for any distributor to persuade or ask customers not to purchase Streetvibes from other distributors. Coercion will not be tolerated. If a customer prefers to purchase from certain distributors that is up to them.

Distributors will not deceive the public by saying they are collecting for a nonprofit charity or collecting for the “homeless” in general. Distributors will be honest in stating that all the profits from the sale of Streetvibes go to the distributor. Distributors will only use the word “donation” when referring to themselves, not the Coalition.

There are special rules for distributing at Findlay Market. Only distributors with approval may distribute at Findlay Market at a time. Other rules as established by Streetvibes and Findlay Market.

Distributors will attend monthly meetings. Monthly meetings occur every 4 weeks on Fridays at 1PM, (dates are posted in the lobby) these meetings are mandatory. Anyone who cannot make the meeting must talk with the Distributor Program Coordinator, before distributing Streetvibes for that month. Ten papers will be given to those who attend the meeting.

It is the responsibility of each distributor to police fellow distributors or former distributors. Distributors will report violators of the rules to the Homeless Coalition. The value of the paper depends on keeping it credible.

For questions or comments pertaining to the distributor program contact:
Jeni Jenkins, Distributor Program Manager.
Ph: 513.421.7803 Ext. 14 jenijenkins@cincihomeless.org